

Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office P.O. Box 550 Richland, Washington 99352

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Ms. Elin D. Miller, Regional Administrator Region 10 Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101

Ms. Jane Hedges, Project Manager Nuclear Waste Program State of Washington Department of Ecology 3200 Port Of Benton Blvd. Richland, WA 99354



EDMC

Addressees:

NOTIFICATION OF PLANNED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) TESTING FOR POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL (PCB) DISPOSAL

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is providing notification of its intent to conduct R&D testing for PCB disposal methods pursuant to the self-implementing requirements of 40 CFR 761.60(j). This R&D for PCB disposal will take place at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's (PNNL) Radiochemical Processing Laboratory (Building 325) located in the 300 Area of the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington. The R&D activity is part of PNNL's research and technology support for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). The EPA identification number for the Hanford Site is A7890008967.

The waste to be treated is liquid and sludge from Hanford Tanks AZ-101 and AP-104. The quantity of waste to be tested is approximately one liter, and the quantity of PCBs in the waste to be tested is approximately 1 nano-liter. RL has determined that the contents of these tanks are PCB remediation waste. The waste is also radioactive, and is both RCRA listed and characteristic hazardous waste.

The waste will be tested using an electrochemical process based on sodium selective ceramic membranes. This technology is being evaluated for the recycle of sodium hydroxide obtained from aqueous waste that has been through the WTP pre-treatment process. Liquid and multiphasic PCB waste from this R&D for PCB disposal will be solidified for disposal as radioactive waste. Low-Level Radioactive PCB waste from this activity will be sent to the Hanford Site Low Level Burial Grounds, RCRA compliant Mixed Waste disposal units, and Transuranic PCB waste from this activity will be sent to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico for disposal.

The estimated duration for the testing is one year. The requirements of 40 CFR 761.60(j) will be followed for this activity, including the quantity and duration limitations. PNNL plans to begin testing in April 2007.

If you have any questions, please contact Pete J. Garcia, Jr., Director, Safety and Engineering Division, on (509) 372-1909.

Sincerely,

Doug S. Shoop, Assistant Manager for Safety and Engineering

SED:ACM

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